ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for facilitating communication between members of online communities based upon shared travel-related interests are provided. A member database includes identities of members and geographic data related to respective members, e.g., residence locations, travel destinations of interest, and/or specific travel plans. Members may search the member database for other members having associations with selected travel destinations. For example, a member may search for members planning to travel to a destination at the same time as the searching member, for members who reside at a travel destination to which the searching member plans to travel, or for members traveling to the searching member's hometown. Messages may then be conveyed between the members related to their common travel-related plans and interests. If the members belong to different online communities, the member database may include surrogate identities of members by which members are exclusively identified to provide "blind" communication between members.